**Telephone to Village Panchayat**

6265. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village Panchayat connected with telephone facilities in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, so far;

(b) the time by when remaining village Panchayats are likely to be provided with telephone facility; and

(c) the estimated cost that comes to establish a telephone in rural and remote areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Remaining Gram Panchayats in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are likely to be connected with telephone facility by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) The estimated cost to establish a telephone connection in rural area is Rs. 75,000 on average per Village Public Telephone.

**Uncontrolled Growth in Air Traffic**

6266. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines Association have warned the Government against any uncontrolled growth in an Air traffic without developing infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether they have also pointed out that air collision between the two Aircraft was a pointer to the problem;

(c) if so, whether the association has urged the Governments to set up an expert committee to decide whether there was any need at all to have more airlines operation in the domestic market;

(d) if so, whether Government has considered their suggestions; and

(e) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Indian Airlines have 8 recognised associations, out of which there is no such association known as Indian Airlines Association.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Divisional Railway Hospital At Lumding**

6267. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a representation from the All India Railway Employees Confederation about the deteriorating services of Divisional Railway Hospital at Lumding;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the services and functioning of the said hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) To improve the functioning of this hospital programmed visits of specialist doctors from Zonal Hospital have been arranged. Placement of regular specialists is arranged either through U.P.S.C. or through contract services. Allegations levelled against medical and para medical staff, on enquiry, were not substantiated.

**National Telecom Policy**

6268. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated amount required by the Government for implementation of National Telecom Policy; and

(b) the time by which the above policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) The estimated amount required by the Government for implementation of National Telecom Policy is about Rs. 83,250 crores, as envisaged in the draft Ninth Five Year Plan proposals.

Implementation of the Policy, especially in the technological areas, is a continuing process. Its objectives are likely to be substantially achieved during the Ninth Plan through the combined efforts of the Government and the private sector.

**Telephone Connections in M.P.**

6269. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in Madhya Pradesh during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, district-wise;

(b) the number of persons on waiting list upto December, 1996, district-wise;

(c) the time by when this waiting list is likely to be cleared, district-wise;

(d) whether any special scheme has been formulated for the expansion and development of telephones in Madhya Pradesh particularly in Rewa circle;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the time by when such scheme is likely to be formulated;

(g) the amount allocated during 1996-97 for the purpose, district-wise; and

(h) the details of steps taken in this regard?